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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PINR](#) [PK](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#)
SUBJECT: NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR DURRANI ADDRESSES
DIPLOMATIC CORPS ON FATA STRATEGY

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constitution requires acceptance of their right to traditions and self-governance. Third, Durrani cited Pakistan's limited counter-terrorism and counterinsurgency capabilities, claiming that despite the support already received from allies, deficiencies existed and additional training and equipment were needed. He asserted that political reaction to military action, not only within Pakistan but from the outside as well, so imposed a hindrance on Pakistan's ability to curb extremism along the border. He commented that the emergence of liberal parties helped to moderate views and improve Pakistan's ability to engage the tribals through means other than military, but there was still a long way to go.

17. (C) Referencing comments made by Prime Minister Gilani, Durrani proclaimed that Pakistan was "virtually fighting for its soul" so as not to "go the way of the Taliban." As such, he spelled out Pakistan's strategy in the war on terror - to vigorously pursue the ultimate objective of the extermination of terrorist elements and to deny the use of its territory as a safe haven for militancy within and outside of Pakistan. This strategy would be implemented through a three-pronged approach, using complementary political, military, and developmental engagement. Showing clear cohesion with Gilani's previous statements, Durrani confirmed that the federal government would grant a greater role to the NWFP government and increased political and economic engagement in the FATA. He made it clear that there would be no compromise or talks with terrorists unless they "lay down their arms," and that current discussions were only being held with tribal leaders and jirga representatives. Durrani reiterated that the army would remain in the FATA but their leadership had been given more discretion to relocate as necessary to facilitate better logistics and control of the region.

Potential Peace Agreements

¶8. (C) He followed his briefing on the government's FATA strategy with a discussion regarding future elements of any potential peace agreements in the FATA. He remarked that the concept was to separate "irreconcilables" and reestablish the writ of government, denying space for terrorist action and creating space for democratic initiatives. He also commented that agreements would only be signed with tribal leaders to ensure they understand their responsibilities to shoulder enforcement of the agreements. Specific clauses will be required in future peace agreements - including that being implemented in South Waziristan - to effectively combat terrorism while providing opportunities to tribal leaders to regain control and legitimacy within their tribal areas.

¶9. (C) First, all cross-border terrorist movement must cease. Durrani acknowledged that enforcement would be difficult, given the terrain, acceptable trade movements, and the easement rights of tribes, but claimed that this clause was essential to establishing the framework on control. Second, tribes would be responsible for the expulsion of foreign fighters, choosing his words wisely to not cast blame on all foreigners present in the FATA. Third, Durrani stated agreements must require the closure of all extremist training camps. Referencing the failure of 2006 agreements, he admitted that while the agreements themselves were not inferior, implementation and enforcement was. As such, Durrani claimed that a more "sturdy mechanism" would be in place to enforce and monitor these agreements. Finally, any signed agreements must recognize the government's right to take action should tribes fail to enforce the agreements. He confessed that he fully expected violations to occur but said that the central issue was how quickly the government would be able to respond.

¶10. (C) Expecting questions would arise regarding Baitullah Mehsud, Durrani noted that peace agreements with the Mehsud tribes had two distinct features. The first was that the agreements were pursued by the Mehsud tribes themselves as a result of the inconveniences and suffering caused by Baitullah Mehsud's militancy. Second, Durrani argued that the government was signing these agreements from a position of strength, which they hoped to exploit in sparking similar developments elsewhere. Durrani accepted that disagreements

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may exist regarding Pakistan's tactics and methods in prosecuting the war on terror, but reiterated Pakistan's commitment and resolve.

¶11. (C) The French Ambassador asked how, in light of past agreement failures, Pakistan intends to ensure new agreements are fully respected, as well as whether the agreements included any stipulations regarding military presence and/or specific stationing locations. Durrani responded that Pakistan had learned from past experience and thus established more conditions for the enforcement of new agreements. In addition, improved intelligence and forward positioning of troops would enable the government to react more quickly to violations. He acknowledged that success will hinge on proper implementation of the agreements, but that increased political engagement will be the key to "capturing space from terrorists." Likewise, Durrani declared that now was not the right time to decide on long-term positioning of the army and, while locations may be adjusted as situations improve, the military would not be completely removed from the FATA "under any circumstances."

¶12. (C) The Ambassador from Poland followed up by asking whether expulsion of foreign fighters would include Afghans and whether diminished power of the maliks would make their signing of the agreements less potent. Durrani first admitted that distinguishing Afghan Taliban from Pakistani Taliban would be difficult, but contended that efforts would be focused more on foreign fighters, such as Chechens. Regarding the diminished power of the maliks, Durrani acknowledged the concern was valid, claiming that past

military operations may have also disrupted the existing political system. He stated the government hoped to bring back the malik system had power and suggested that an increase in government funding would help them improve their position.

¶13. (C) The Norwegian Ambassador raised the lack of security in Afghanistan as a major reason for postponement of refugee camps closures in Pakistan and asked Durrani how the GOP planned to deal with the situation. He answered that while refugees were a problem, the threat posed from a counter-terrorism perspective was real and had to be handled through increased security and intelligence. Durrani urged the group to help improve stability in Afghanistan so that many of the refugees could return home. He did, however, agree that there was no simple solution to the refugee problem but resolved to hold discussions with the Afghan government on the matter.

¶14. (C) The Danish Ambassador asked how the government would effectively monitor compliance with peace accords, pointing to Pakistan's claims that it would not hold talks with terrorists. The Ambassador also questioned whether the Taliban would be included in future jirgas and if Baitullah Mehsud would be party to the South Waziristan peace agreement. Durrani replied that a number of interrelated elements exist to help monitor compliance: 1) improvements in intelligence sharing and cooperation, 2) consistent military presence, 3) alliances with strengthened maliks, and 4) increased control of ingress routes by the military. With respect to Taliban presence at future jirgas, Durrani explained the need to define not simply whether the individuals were Taliban, but whether they were militant, in which case they would not be welcomed. Put simply, he said, the government must accept that fact that the tribal system in place had not changed over the years and if non-militant Taliban leaders held influence with the tribes, it would be difficult to exclude them from the jirgas. On the other hand, Durrani assured the group that Baitullah Mehsud would in no way participate in the jirgas, acknowledging Mehsud's potential influence over tribal leaders who did participate.

¶15. (C) Finally, the Ambassador from Australia inquired on the possibility that Mehsud was transferring fighters across the border to Afghanistan. Although Durrani admitted that he had no evidence of these transfers, he contended that it was likely these moves had occurred. Referring to previous "hard-hitting" operations, Durrani claimed that such operations were responsible for tribal relocations, which he

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believed led to tribal pressure on Mehsud and requests for the peace agreements. Even so, he acknowledged that dramatic progress would not occur overnight and asked the group of diplomats for their countries' patience and trust, granting their uncertainties regarding Pakistan's capabilities, but not its resolve in this long war.
PATTERSON